

**MECKLENBURG'S GLORY.**  
THE FIRST DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

The Annual Celebration at Charlotte, of which North Carolina and the Country are Proud — Interesting Historical Sketches of the Document.

On the 28th of May of each year the State pride of our neighbors of North Carolina is kindled to enthusiasm. And there is reason for it. That particular day is full of historic interest to her people. It is the anniversary of an event which has made their State famous in the annals of the country, and they are now about to renew their annual tribute to its glorious memories. It was on that day that the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence" of 1775 was adopted at the town of Charlotte by the united voice of an indignant and determined people, and which is justly claimed as the first decisive action taken in America in favor of national independence.

## BEFORE EVERYONE.

Year after year they have been accustomed to observe with becoming ceremonies the recoil of the joyful anniversary. Now, however, in the sun of its grand old State did not forget herdly to the grand more remote memories of the past, she gathered around her country's altar, on the 28th of May of that year, a mighty host to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the same events. On that occasion, however, was not content to enjoy alone the reminiscences of a period in American history which she felt was as dear to her sister Commonwealths as to herself. Her invitations brought the other State representatives from many other States of the Union, who voices were heard mingling with those of her own sons respecting the events of Revolutionary times and reviving the deeds of her heroes.

## VIRGINIA WAS THERE.

Of course Virginia, the ever constant friend and natural ally of a State, which was destined to be so great, bore her home and flesh of her flesh. Virginia, on an interesting occasion. One of her illustrious sons, General Joseph E. Johnston, had been chosen to marshal the forces on that festal day, but unfortunately was deferred the privilege to lead the others. But the old general's health did not permit his participation. Officers, soldiers, and orators were there to do homage to the event.

## SOMETHING OF THE DOCUMENT.

But what has this Mecklenburg Declaration, and how comes it, that the people of North Carolina so cherish its memories and celebrate with such zeal its recurring anniversaries? They are all familiar with the history of the grand assembly of the patriot fathers' emancipation from tyranny, sent out to the world from the assembled patriots at Philadelphia in the year 1776. Its overshadowing magnitude obscured for the time other striking instances of patriotic devotion to the great principles of liberty in many a colony. Especially was this the case in North Carolina.

Readers of American history who are familiar with the state of the public mind all over the country upon the adoption and attempt at enforcement of the document will be surprised at the prompt and early conduct of the people of that State. With all the other local subjects of Great Britain's American colonies, and led by the instinct and example of the Boston patriots, given to the adoption of the oppressive and unmerciful measures of the home government. The discontent manifested by the people of Massachusetts was felt as well in North Carolina, and when at last it was found that all other colonies had rejected their demonstration and their efforts to incite the British authorities, the people of the whole country began to conclude that there was no hope for deliverance but in open resistance to the crown. This feeling took hold of them when it was also seen that the British were multiplying and intensifying the trials by reinforcing all their military posts and establishing depots of supplies at all the best harbors along the Atlantic coast. It was at this particular juncture that the people of North Carolina declared war.

## NO HOPE IN DELAY.

They saw no hope, but with a courage born of desperation, and with either of the alternatives at once announced their determination to be free and independent. They had internal enemies among them, some of whom were ambitiously aiming to seize the power and wealth which their victory had given them; and others who, hating the good, and envied those above them in the social plane, and still others who thought it a rash and diabolical act to risk with their safety and property so far as the British had already imposed taxes over them. Such considerations and claims had, however, long ceased to exist in their minds. The cause of the provincial rulers had not been calculated to allay their apprehensions or quiet their feelings.

## RESISTING THE STAMP ACT.

As soon as it became known to North Carolina that the stamp act had passed, the first step was to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston, and was made in the light of day and without disguise. It was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina. His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminishing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminishing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminishing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminishing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did not succeed in diminish-

ing them. His first experience with the Legislature justifies this statement. His party, the Royalists, and himself passed the stamp act to resist its enforcement. Governor Tryon was notified to this effect. The colonial legislature took such action on the subject that the Governor felt obliged to prorogue its session. At this juncture, further steps were adopted in view of every device laid on board the editor stamp paper for the use of the Province. This was as early as 1766. Upon the vessel's coming to anchor off the town of Brunswick, in the State of East Carolina, Capt. Col. John Aspinwall & Co., Hugh Weddell, at the head of a company of determined patriots, marched to the town and通知ed the Captain of the war vessel of their purpose to resist the landing of the stamps. This bold attack upon the Royal revenue ship, so far as the specie of the British government at Boston,

which had been made in the light of day and without disguise, was not surpassed in heroic devotion by Patrick Henry's stand to Williamsburg nine years later, or by the drive of Dunmore from the soil of Virginia. Thus the "sons of Liberty," although denounced by the British authorities as turbulent and seditious outlaws, were the first to raise the standard of rebellion against British power in America. The difference between them and the Massachusetts patriots of 1775 was that the latter were obliged to resist the attack of Gage's force or be disgraced, whereas, the men of North Carolina, like the men of Boston, had, and thwarted the plan of their enemies.

With following these events, Governor Tryon left North Carolina for New York, over which colony he had been called to preside. He was succeeded by Josiah Martin, who was appointed by the crown to take charge of affairs in Carolina.

His first act, which had already been existing between the people and the government, was becoming more and more serious. Governor Martin did